

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 13 and 15 may be found at least in the specification as originally filed at paragraph [0019] and original claim 17. Claims 19 and 20 have been added. Support for new claims 19 and 20 may be found at least in claim 13, original claim 17, and in the specification as originally filed at paragraph [0019]. No new matter has been added. No claims have been cancelled. With entry of this response, claims 13-20 will be pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner alleges that “the term ‘low affinity’ is a relative term, which renders the claim indefinite” and that “the particular surface properties possessed by the mineral or organic particles are not defined and are also unclear for this reason.” Office action at page 2. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 13. Applicants submit that the amendments presented herein render the rejections moot, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 13-20. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner’s convenience should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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